

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/10/2008 has been entered.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 6 – 11, 20 – 25, 29 – 34 and 40 – 42, renumbered as 1 – 21 are allowed.

Claims 1 – 5, 12 – 19, 26 – 28 and 35 – 39 are canceled.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of the record fails to anticipate or fairly suggest the limitations, a method for adaptively filtering a video signal prior to encoding, comprising: Calculating a local gradient indicative of a region type within a single frame of the video signal, the region type being one of an edge region or a smooth region; determining a weight factor based upon the local gradient; and applying the weight factor to a difference signal according to the region type, the difference signal representing a difference between the single frame of the video signal and an output of a smoothing filter which data representing the single frame of the video signal passes, as specified in fig. 5 of the instant application, and cited in independent claim 6, renumbered as claim1 and similarly independent claims 20 and 29, renumbered as 7 and 13.

Claims 7 – 11, 21 – 25 and 30 – 34 and 40 – 42, renumbered as 2 – 6, 8 – 12 and 14 – 21 are dependent to allowable renumbered independent claims 1, 7 and 13, therefore these claims as a whole consider allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Contact

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Behrooz Senfi whose telephone number is 571-272-7339. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mehrdad Dastouri can be reached on 571-272-7418. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Behrooz Senfi/
Examiner
Art Unit 2621

/Tung Vo/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2621